

Torrance Herald

TENTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., FEBRUARY 5, 1924

NO. 7

Arrest Hemmi In Mail Theft Case

Chestnut Hill Area Given Boost By New East Side Producer

Clarke No. 1 Roars In While Crew Is Pulling Pipe And Now Is Yielding From 3610-Ft. Level

Adding weight to the contention that excellent production will be obtained on Chestnut hill in East Lomita, the Fortuna Oil company's Clark No. 1 at Elgin and Eshelman streets blew in Friday and, although there is no perforated tubing in the hole, is now producing about 800 barrels a day.

The well blew oil high over the crown block last Friday morning, while the crew was pulling pipe. It was mudded up, but blew in again in the evening. The hole was drilled to 3750 feet. Eight and a quarter-inch ex-

tends 3610 feet and it is from that level that the well is now producing. It was just a block south that Julian brought in his No. 2 for 1200 barrels. The new Fortuna producer was drilled by the R. K. Drilling company. It adds another chapter to the spectacular career of Tuck Edens in the field.

Chanslor-Canfield brought in Torrance 28 for a yield of 900 barrels. Offsetting the Petroleum Midway's Stock community lease on Carson street, this well was drilled to 3700 feet.

EDENS READY TO ABANDON P.-B. WILDCAT

Jinx Well in East Torrance Cost Owners \$175,000

With a history of high hopes, bitter disappointments, salt water, and some oil, the old Peterson-Barker wildcat, northeast of the Union Tool company's plant in Torrance, is finally designated for reassignment to the limbo of abandoned oil wells.

Costing its owners \$175,000, the well constitutes one of the wildest wildcats ever drilled in this part of the state.

Through mishap after mishap, fishing job after fishing job, the owners stuck to the task of bringing in a producer with a determination seldom matched by independents.

Then when the time came for a production test it was found that the water shutoff was incomplete. Plugging back, packing, recementing

BASE PRICE OF CRUDE OIL IS NOW DOLLAR

The base price for California crude oil is now one dollar a barrel. Gasoline is up 2 cents, now costing 19 cents, including the state tax.

These increases were announced Monday night by the Standard Oil company.

The crude oil increases graduate from a 15-cent boost for oil of 14 to 19.9 degrees to 39 cents for 35 gravity oil.

successively failed to make the well a producer, and now Tuck Edens, whose faith in the well has been unflagging, is reported to be about to abandon the hole. That the well was drilled into an oil formation is certain. It even produced a small quantity of oil on the beam, but the gravity was low and the amount so small that pumping would not be profitable.

Thus endeth the story of an oil well which for months stood on the crest of public interest.

Observations

Woodrow Wilson, His Dream of Peace, His Disappointment and What His Life Means to the Future

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

THE Phoenix of deathless ideals has risen from the ashes left by the burning fire of a noble dream. The flames that blazed around the earth over the fuel of terrestrial hope were quenched by the great wet blanket of national greed. And now the resurrected spirit of that smothered fire sweeps on again over the face of a troubled world.

Woodrow Wilson is dead. The moving spirit of 1917 and 1918, the "Living Messiah" of 1919, the blighted dreamer of 1920 is the mourned martyr of 1924. Everything dies but truth. Temporal power and the little aims of men burn out before the withering fire of death. Only ideals endure.

FORGOTTEN are the defeats of the flesh by worldly weapons. The petty bickerings of small-souled statesmen at Versailles and Washington fade away with the death of the man who gave fresh hope to humanity and died at his guns, defending his ideals.

Beaten in life, Woodrow Wilson is victorious in death. During the war, after the war, this strangely inspired man caught the hopes and dreams of mankind in the living cage of thought, gathered them up and released them, to soar eternally over the earth in deathless literature.

His official utterances as President of the United States stand unmatched on the long scrolls of statesmanship.

THAT he did not live to see his plan and hope for world peace materialize matters little. That the ideals, for which he gave his life blood, may not be realized for centuries to come is unimportant in the far span of the centuries.

But that these ideals live and will live in the hearts of men for all time is victory for him who died as surely for the sake of mankind as did those illustrious men who poured out their blood on the battlefields of France.

The manner in which Woodrow Wilson fought to make a dream come true, which in the light of his failure at Versailles now seems ill-advised, is of small import. Perhaps he erred in the selection of means. Perhaps he lived a few centuries ahead of his time, when the hearts of men had not yet reached a stage of unselfishness in which the white corpuscles of an ideal could destroy the poison of an earthly greed.

BE all that as it may, the fact remains that the eternal prose of the famous Fourteen Points makes that pronouncement the greatest state document of modern times.

It was almost too much to hope that lasting peace would follow the great world war. That Woodrow Wilson fought with his whole heart and soul for that peace—and lost—is more of a discredit to the statesmen who barred the way than it is to the author of the plan.

Every great cause has its martyrs. The painful history of human progress is written in the blood of disappointed men.

NINETEEN centuries ago, as the dim shadows of a gathering night crept silently over Palestine, a handful of mourners, clustered on a hilltop above the city of Jerusalem, stood in the lengthening shadow of a cross.

There died on that hilltop a Man with a high ideal. But as He died the moving spirit of the centuries to come gained strength.

The Carpenter of Nazareth lives eternally in the glorious faith that found origin in His soul. Centuries later his teachings have been distorted by the very men who proclaim themselves modern apostles of His faith.

But his teachings, despite distortion, despite earthly greed, move on in everlasting beauty.

A YE, only ideals and truth and spirit endure. Only right is everlasting. Champions of justice pass on in the flesh, but their trumpet calls blaze down the passing centuries, unsoftened.

There are degrees of worthiness. But there is no degree of truth. He who pleads for peace with honesty of purpose has caught a beam from the shining glory of Calvary.

"When the traveler from New Zealand stands on London bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul," when the hearts of men are lifted out of the slough of greed, the beam that Woodrow Wilson caught will gleam in magnified glory over the face of the entire earth.

POLITICS! An empty shell. Statesmanship! Once in a century a contribution to human progress. National aspirations! Worthless by themselves, unless honestly dedicated to and directed toward the progress of all humanity.

Let these "practical" men scoff. Let their shouts, "Ideals are all right but they won't work," go out over the world. Ideals, that dreamers champion, will be moving onward centuries hence. The names of the age-old martyrs to ideals will sound from the lips of living men.

NO, the world is not ready for Peace. Any more than it is ready for the Golden Rule. All the more honor, then, to those courageous souls whose mighty wills and noble hearts bid them donate their minds and bodies and their lives to "impossible" hopes.

They are the pioneers of human emancipation. They are the dreamers that light the dark and tangled pathways of human progress.

They hold aloft the torch, knowing that they will not reach the goal while living in the flesh. They give their lives to generations of the dim and distant years. Dreamers! Idealists! Aye! Torch-bearers! Princes of Peace! God give us more of them.

ONE by one the heads that have risen high with presidential ambition fall into the sumphole of the big oil interests, from whence no political wanderers return.

That Calvin Coolidge is an honest man is without question. But unfortunately he inherited the sins of the administration that preceded him. The Republican party under the same direction that carried Warren G. Harding to victory cannot succeed on a platform of excuses.

William Gibbs McAdoo, though charged with no untoward act as secretary of the treasury, is now smeared with the very crude oil of the big interests. His employment by Doheny strips him of political strength.

No matter what one may think of Mr. Coolidge and Mr. McAdoo as men of personal integrity, one must admit, in the face of the American people's new enlightenment as to the machinations of the big oil companies, that neither Mr. Harding's successor nor the former secretary of the treasury constitutes a strong candidate.

LOOKING at the situation from the standpoint of purely practical politics—if practical politics can ever be pure—the two old parties must shuffle the cards for a brand new deal or else an independent candidate, backed by dissatisfied branches of both old parties, will be the next President of the United States.

For many and obvious reasons that gentleman probably will not be Hiram Johnson.

Other new stars rise on the political horizon of the nation. Senator Reed looms up as a Democratic candidate. Senator Walsh, whose rugged determination beat down every effort to shove down the soft pedal on the organ of the senate's investigation

Torrance Lawyer Held In Anaheim Postal Robbery

J. U. HEMMI DENIES IMPLICATION

J. U. Hemmi Tuesday issued the following statement for publication in The Herald:

Dear Folks:

I am accused of robbing the U. S. mail at Anaheim of \$18,000 on December 27th, 1923. I never heard or knew or dreamed of any such robbery until January 18th, 1924, when J. R. Abernathy, J. L. Findlay and Chas. Wheeler, all of Anaheim, were arrested on that charge. I was not in Anaheim between December 25th and January 15th. Nearly three years ago I moved to Anaheim, and first lived for 30 days in the home of Mr. Abernathy, who was then superintendent of Anaheim schools. He had trouble with the school board. People took sides in the bitter fight. I supported him. Since then his family and mine have been fast friends and frequent visitors. Mr. Abernathy, from the first to the last, came to me with most of his business. I handled an important lawsuit for him and many other deals. I made an income tax report, which, but for the slump in real estate, showed him to be a wealthy man. He often said he would pay for my services, but did not, except my traveling and hotel expenses. I made no special charges, but my legitimate fees would run over \$1000. Since being out of school work, he has engaged in real estate and other business. Mr. Findlay was first arrested and made confession, in which he accused Mr. Abernathy and Chas. Wheeler with himself. Mr. Abernathy denies guilty connection. I do not know that he is. As his attorney, I have no legal right to divulge his business deals. Under question of postal officials, I have repeatedly refused to do so. They could not get anything out of me by questions, so thought to force me by another and severer third degree. I am entirely innocent, but my connections with Mr. Abernathy would indicate that I know something that might convict him. You will hear all kinds of reports and rumors. Please suspend judgment.

Yours truly,
J. U. HEMMI.

MAN WOUNDED IN GUN FIGHT ON NARBONNE

Telling the story of a nocturnal hand-to-hand battle for the gun with which an unmasked bandit held him up in the oil fields at 2 a. m. Sunday, T. J. Edwards, known along Narbonne avenue as "Tony," was brought to the emergency hospital with a bullet hole through the thigh. He was treated by Drs. Davis and Norman and taken to Los Angeles. Edwards declared he was held up near the Spanish Kitchen by a man with a gun, that he showed fight, and that the gun went off during the scuffle. The bandit escaped.

OIL MEN HAVE CLOSE CALL ON DERRICK TOP

Nat Roberts and A. S. (Shorty) Best, of Narbonne avenue, narrowly escaped serious injury when Gladys No. 1 blew in. The boys were taking the sand line over the top of the derrick preparatory to balling, when they were covered with oil. Blinded and fighting the effects of the gas, they groped their way down the ladders. Shorty fell when 30 feet from the ground and, striking the pump shed, bounced off into the sump. He is still limping. Roberts' chief concern when he reached the ground was that his perfectly clean outfit was ruined. Both boys were fighting mad because the rest of the "roughnecks" cleaned them off with distillate.

Charged With Embezzling \$18,000, Is Out Under \$25,000 Bond

WIFE HAS FAITH

Mrs. Hemmi, in Tears, Declares Husband Is Innocent

After an investigation that reached half way across the continent, J. U. Hemmi, Torrance attorney and respected Sunday school teacher, was arrested last Friday in connection with the Anaheim mail robbery on December 27.

Charged specifically with embezzlement of a mail sack containing \$18,000 in cash, Mr. Hemmi was taken into custody by Chief Anderson and turned over to federal detectives from Los Angeles.

Saturday night he was released under \$25,000 bond.

On the verge of a nervous breakdown, but staunchly defending her husband, Mrs. Hemmi declared Monday morning that Hemmi is innocent of implication in the Anaheim robbery.

"When all the facts are brought out his innocence will be established," she said. "At present all I can say is that I appreciate with all my heart the kindness of the people of Torrance who have expressed to me their confidence in the innocence of my husband."

Represents Abernathy The circumstances leading up to the arrest of the Torrance attorney constitute the most thrilling chapter in Torrance police records.

Shortly after the Anaheim robbery, in which a postoffice employe was placed under arrest, Joe Abernathy of Anaheim was also lodged in jail. Hemmi is an old friend of the Abernathy family. When Abernathy was arrested it was to Hemmi that Mr. Abernathy appealed for legal assistance.

Hemmi went to Santa Ana and secured the release of Abernathy under bail of \$25,000. He also represented the postal employe and secured his release under bond.

Shortly afterward Chief of Police Anderson of Torrance, walking by the Hemmi office on Susana avenue, heard Hemmi talking over the long distance telephone. He listened to the conversation and later ascertained the name of the party on the other end of the line.

Anderson then notified Detectives Rose and Jarvis of what he had heard. The federal detectives came immediately to Torrance.

Followed by Detective Later Hemmi left for Texas, and Detective Low was detailed to follow him.

What Low is alleged to have discovered on this trip in Missouri through interception of telegrams, and what Rose and Jarvis, ascertained through intercepted letters and a search of Hemmi's office, will constitute the evidence by which the authorities expect to connect the Torrance man with the Anaheim robbery.

While Hemmi was being shadowed half way across the continent by Detective Low, the Los Angeles detectives and Chief Anderson, acting under the authority of a search warrant issued by Chief Recorder James King, searched Hemmi's office.

Mr. Hemmi asserts that he sent the telegrams to Abernathy entirely in his capacity as Abernathy's attorney, and denies emphatically that they constitute incriminating evidence against him.

Police Hold Letters Mrs. Hemmi declares that Hemmi went east at the behest of Mrs. Abernathy to raise money for the defense of Abernathy.

The police are reluctant to divulge the nature of the intercepted telegrams alleged to have been sent by Hemmi from Missouri to Abernathy. They declare that these telegrams and the letters they secured by seizure "will come out at the trial."

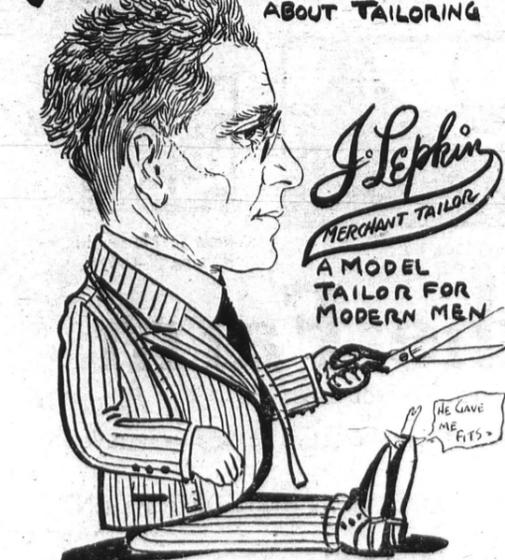
To the friends and associates of Mr. and Mrs. Hemmi the arrest of the attorney came as a distinct shock. During his residence here Mr. Hemmi was a teacher in the Methodist Sunday school and a devoted worker in the interests of the church.

Order your classified ads run more than once. The rate per issue is less and you are more certain to get results.

A KNIGHT OF THE NEEDLE

By THE MYSTERIOUS COWBOY

HERE IS NO 'SHERE' NONSENSE ABOUT TAILORING



Mr. J. Lepkin, excellent tailor and newcomer to Torrance, with handsome business premises at 1312 Sartori street, tells us that his long experience has taught him that the buyer of tailor-made garments does not only want the clothes but the benefits of the tailor's art. A customer that has been served both with quality materials and a perfect fitting, has a sense of satisfaction about his whole being that promotes self-possession and confidence. If one has a suit that feels as if it is clothing your person becomingly and "fittingly," then you are sure to feel an inward sense of security.

Mr. Lepkin, a most pleasant and able tailor who has come to Torrance

to remain and serve his growing clientele, is a native of the district bordering the Black Sea in Russia. When eleven years of age he was first instructed in the tailoring trade. Leaving Russia many years ago, he came to Canada, and in that Dominion has been prominently identified with the tailoring trade for a number of years in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

It was during a motoring trip that he discovered Torrance. Shortly after arriving in Los Angeles he set out to visit the harbor district. San Pedro engaged his attention for a time. But it was the substantial aspect of Torrance that made him decide upon this city as a future place of home and business.

(Continued on Last Page)